

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1034

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2003

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. OWENS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of César Estrada Chávez and the farm labor movement.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ STUDY ACT.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.— This Act may be cited as the
5 “César Estrada Chávez Lands Legacy Study Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.— Congress finds the following:

7 (1) On March 31, 1927, César Estrada Chávez
8 was born on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona.

1 (2) At age 10, Chávez and his family became
2 migrant farm workers after they lost their farm in
3 the Great Depression.

4 (3) Throughout his youth and into adulthood,
5 Chávez migrated across the Southwest, laboring in
6 fields and vineyards.

7 (4) During this period, Chávez was exposed to
8 the hardships and injustices of farm worker life.

9 (5) In 1952, Chávez’s life as an organizer and
10 public servant began when he left the fields and
11 joined the Community Service Organization, a com-
12 munity-based self-help organization.

13 (6) While with the Community Service Organi-
14 zation, Chávez conducted—

15 (A) voter registration drives; and

16 (B) campaigns against racial and economic
17 discrimination.

18 (7) During the late 1950s and early 1960s,
19 Chávez served as the national director of the Com-
20 munity Service Organization.

21 (8) In 1962, Chávez founded the National
22 Farm Workers Association, an organization that—

23 (A) was the first successful farm workers
24 union in the United States; and

1 (B) became known as the “United Farm
2 Workers of America”.

3 (9) From 1962 to 1993, as leader of United
4 Farm Workers of America, Chávez achieved for tens
5 of thousands of farm workers—

6 (A) dignity and respect;

7 (B) fair wages;

8 (C) medical coverage;

9 (D) pension benefits;

10 (E) humane living conditions; and

11 (F) other rights and protections.

12 (10) The leadership and humanitarianism of
13 César Chávez continue to influence and inspire mil-
14 lions of citizens of the United States to seek social
15 justice and civil rights for the poor and
16 disenfranchised.

17 (11) The life of César Chávez and his family
18 provides an outstanding opportunity to illustrate and
19 interpret the history of agricultural labor in the
20 western United States.

21 (c) RESOURCE STUDY.—Not later than 3 years after
22 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the
23 Interior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)
24 shall complete a resource study of sites in the State of
25 Arizona, the State of California, and other States that are

1 significant to the life of César E. Chávez and the farm
2 labor movement in the western United States to deter-
3 mine—

4 (1) appropriate methods for preserving and in-
5 terpreting the sites; and

6 (2) whether any of the sites meets the criteria
7 for listing on the National Register of Historic
8 Places or designation as a national historic land-
9 mark under—

10 (A) the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C.
11 461 et seq.); and

12 (B) the National Historic Preservation Act
13 (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

14 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the study under
15 this section, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) consider the criteria for the study of areas
17 for potential inclusion in the National Park System
18 under section 8(b)(2) of Public Law 91–383 (16
19 U.S.C. 1a–5(b)(2)); and

20 (2) consult with—

21 (A) the César E. Chávez Foundation;

22 (B) the United Farm Workers Union;

23 (C) State and local historical associations
24 and societies; and

1 (D) the State Historic Preservation Offi-
2 cers of the State of Arizona, the State of Cali-
3 fornia, and any other State in which a site de-
4 scribed in subsection (a) is located.

5 (e) REPORT.—On completion of the study under sub-
6 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
7 on Resources of the House of Representatives and the
8 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Sen-
9 ate a report on—

10 (1) the findings of the study; and

11 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
14 essary to carry out this section.

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